

Federal Jury Probe Set in Pontiac Blasts

From News Dispatches

DETROIT, Sept. 10 — A federal grand jury probe of the dynamiting of 10 school buses in Pontiac was ordered today as six men connected with the Michigan Ku Klux Klan appeared before a U.S. Magistrate on conspiracy charges in the Aug. 30 bombings.

The empty school buses were bombed the week before the start of a court-ordered desegregation plan in Pontiac.

The grand jury proceedings will begin Sept. 21, Assistant U.S. Attorney Philip Van Dam said. Thirty subpoenas already have been issued in the investigation.

In Pontiac, nine women pleaded guilty in district court to charges of disorderly conduct stemming from the first day of protests by busing opponents Tuesday. The women, five of whom chained themselves to bus depot gates, elected to spend 15 days in jail as a symbolic protest against the busing program rather than pay \$100 fines.

The six Klansmen were charged in a Justice Department complaint issued Thursday with conspiracy to violate federal bomb laws, conspiracy to obstruct federal court orders and conspiracy to violate the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

After spending the night at the Wayne County Jail, the six men, dressed in ratty, shabby clothing, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Philip Van Dam on Monday. They were held in a \$100,000 bond.

The grand jury probe is expected to last several weeks, Van Dam said. He said the government has obtained evidence that the Klansmen conspired to obstruct federal court orders and to violate the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

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The complaint by 22 black and white pupils and their parents claims the children were deprived of their rights for an equal education because funds were diverted from education to buy new buses needed to transport the children under the racial balance busing plan. A similar complaint by the same group was dismissed Aug. 4.

In Detroit, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked U.S. District Court Judge Damon Keith for an injunction barring any disruptions at Pontiac schools. The NAACP attorneys also requested U.S. marshals be sent to the tense city of 83,000 persons to enforce Keith's desegregation order.

School buses moved on schedule in Pontiac today and police said picketing was light. Absenteeism remained at a high level in elementary schools and junior high schools.

The busing plan, which stems from a February, 1970, order issued by Judge Keith, affects about 9,000 of the school district's 24,000 pupils.

The Pontiac Police Officers Association has given a \$300 check to the organization fighting busing.

Patrolman Gerald Collins, spokesman for the police group, said the donation was voted Thursday night at a meeting attended by 30 of the 100 association members.

Collins said the money was to be used in the court fight which Irene McCabe and fellow members of the National Action Group (NAG) are waging against busing.

Collins explained the association's position at a news conference. Two black patrolmen, who sought to read a statement opposing the donation, were refused the floor on grounds they were on duty and thus ineligible to take a public stand on political issues.



United Press International

FBI agents escort Robert Miles, former grand dragon of the Michigan Ku Klux Klan, to federal building for ar-

raignment on charges of plotting with five others to blow up school buses used to integrate Pontiac, Mich.

Elbert Hatchett, attorney for the NAACP, which has led support for the busing, termed the association's action "typical" and said it was the group's "method of discrimination in law enforcement against the blacks."

Hatchett had criticized Pontiac Police Thursday night for not taking as strong a posture as he thought they should have in dealing with the anti-busing element.

Police Chief William Hanger termed the NAACP charges "inaccurate" and said, "We don't feel we have responded softly or improperly. We have given fair and reasonable law enforcement."

Elsewhere around the country:

- In Ayden, N.C., seven young blacks were arrested for the dynamite bombing of a high school. About 825 students were in the desegregated Ayden-Grifton High School when an explosion ripped out a wall Wednesday but there were no injuries.

- In Jacksonville, Fla., a woman school bus driver unknowingly pulled a dynamite bomb from beneath the bus and drove her rounds delivering children. A service station owner discovered the makeup of the device — 14 sticks of dynamite wired to batteries and an apparent timing mechanism — when the driver later asked him what was in the harmless-looking paper sack.

- In Kokomo Ind., classes were dismissed at the noon hour at Kokomo High School in a move to avert a renewal of lunchtime racial outbreaks. Ten students were injured and six arrested Thursday in fighting between blacks and whites.

- In Jonesboro, Ga., three white high school football players were stabbed Thursday night when a predominantly white team, boarding a bus after a game, was attacked by a group of young blacks. Six Negro teen-agers were arrested and charged with assault.

- In San Francisco, school buses made a "dry run," some with parents on board, in preparation for next week's massive school integration. There were no incidents or trouble, school officials said.

- The Pinellas County, Fla., school board and parents of some of the 85,000 children in the system asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stay an expanded busing plan for the St. Petersburg area. They complained "all the social, economic, health, safety and emotional evils of federally imposed racial integration" were being imposed on the pupils.